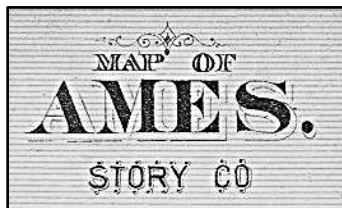


# Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

**Newsletter to Members**  
2014 FALL.....ISSUE #4/4

*Discovering our history,  
Preserving our past,  
Sharing our stories.*



Label on an early map of Ames.

**Ames Historical Society Board:**  
**Co-President** Mary Atherly  
**Co-President** Kathy Svec  
**Co-Secretary** Phyllis Heffron, Lynette Spicer  
**Treasurer** Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Bob Bourne, Jan Breitman, Keith Bystrom, Peter Hallock, Craig Hastings, Phyllis Heffron, Lonnie Mannes, Carol Phillips, Mike Quinn, Ardy Ulrichson, Sharon Wirth  
 The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month 6:45pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!

**Staff:**  
**Executive Director** Casie Vance  
**Projects Coordinator** Alex Feifar  
**Collections Manager** Sarah Carlson  
**Communications Coord.** Hannah Frederick

**Emeritus Staff:**  
 Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance,  
 Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

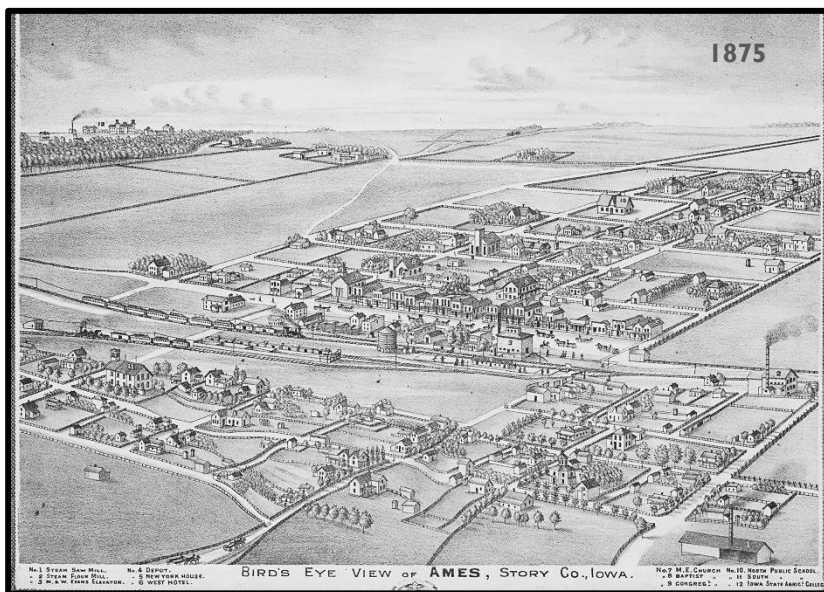
**Headquarters:** 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010  
 Open Mon-Fri, 1-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm  
**Mail:** PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010  
**Phone:** 515-232- 2148  
**E-mail:** info@ameshistory.org  
**Website:** www.AmesHistory.org  
**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

The **newsletter** is published four times a year for AHS members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

**Hoggatt School** is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, Ames, Iowa. Due to construction at Meeker School, Hoggatt will be closed until fall 2015.

## Final Sesquicentennial Events

**Platting Day: Wed. December 17**



On **December 17, 1864**, the first twelve blocks of Ames were laid out by the engineer working for railroad man, John Blair. Those original boundaries were the railroad on the south, Duff Avenue on the east, Burnett Avenue on the west and Eighth Street on the north.

On Wednesday, **December 17, 2014** this landmark event will be celebrated at an 11:45am ceremony at 5<sup>th</sup> and Douglas with receptions from noon to 1pm at the four corner organizations. A 5-6:30pm “progressive” reception will follow with appetizers and historic information at three locations along Fifth Street, culminating in a 6:30pm celebratory program, toast and birthday cake at City Auditorium, 520 6<sup>th</sup> Street. These events are free and open to the public! Look for more information at [www.ames150.com](http://www.ames150.com).



## A special art exhibition: Ames is 150: His Story, Her Story, Our Story

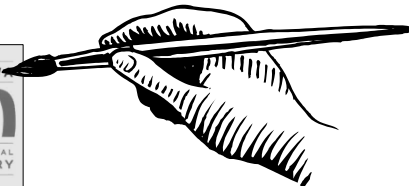
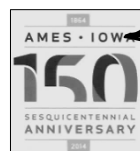
Presenting an art exhibition of works created by Ames artists about the history of Ames, accompanied by historical footnotes and works of art from the Ames Historical Society's collection.

**December 13, 2014 through January 24, 2015**

Gallery in the Round, Unitarian Fellowship. 1015 Hyland, Ames  
 Open viewing hours: Monday – Thursday, 1- 4 pm and by appointment.  
 Call 515-292-5960

**Opening reception: December 13, 6-8 pm. Public invited!**

*Exhibit sponsored by Ames C.art, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames and Ames Historical Society.*



# Sesquicentennial Photo Album – a busy & wonderful summer!



**Left:** July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade line-up: Alex Fejfar, Neal Tarman, Gina Spohnheimer

**Right:** Under the July 4<sup>th</sup> tent, three summer reading program participants dramatically read stories about historic central Iowa figures.



**Left:** June 11, Iowa Museum Day: Margaret Vance demonstrates weaving a Camp Fire Girl sit-upon.

**Right:** Aug. 2 Gala opening of the Sesqui exhibit.



**Above:** The Sesquicentennial Exhibit hosted by the Octagon Center for the Arts featured 150 panels highlighting various facets of Ames history and many engaging artifacts from the Society's collection.



**Left:** Organizers were pleased that the six gallery talks presented in conjunction with the 150<sup>th</sup> Exhibit were so well attended.

**Above:** Visitors stand near the beautifully restored portrait of Ames' founder, John I. Blair.

## Sesquicentennial Photo Album – celebrating local history!

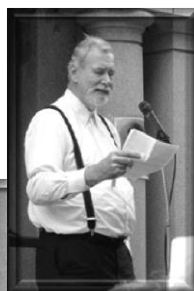
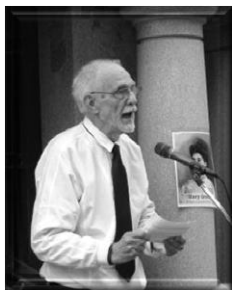


**Center & Above:** Sept. 14 re-dedication of the 1915 City Hall that was restored by Youth & Shelter Services for use as its headquarters. George Belitsos, YSS, at the mic announces Mayor Ann Campbell's ribbon cutting. Vintage autos set the early 1900s theme.



**Above & Top:** Dinkey Day on Sept. 26 in campustown featured the fully furnished History Trailer with its built-in projection screen. AHS staffers, Alex Fejfar and Hannah Frederick pose in front of the trailer display.

**Right & Below:** The Cemetery Walk on Sept. 20 attracted over 100 people on a beautiful fall afternoon. The steps of the Greeley tomb were used as a small stage. Right: Jere Maddux appears as Wallace Greeley; Roger Berger, below left, spoke as 101-year-old Charles Hamilton; Dario Zaffarano below right, was newspaper editor John Duncan, Carolyn Klaus was Mary Greeley and John Klaus, lower right, was farmer Ben Kingsbury.





## Headquarters Happenings – Around 416 Douglas

### Martin Family Visits

The families of Archie and Nancy Martin and John and Nellie Martin Shipp represent the earliest known African-American families to arrive in Ames (ca. 1913-1916). Over the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, 140 members of the



Martin and Shipp families representing three generations from seven states and Switzerland gathered in Ames. Their reunion celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of their ancestors in Ames. There was a picnic, banquet at ISU's Martin Hall, viewing of the Martin terracotta tiles on the Fifth Street Historic Piers, and visit to the Ames Historical Society where they saw an exhibit of documents, photos and WWI artifacts associated with their ancestors. Featured were five recently preserved and framed vintage portraits of the Martin generations born into slavery.



### General Filter Scrapbook

Leo Lawlor, left, was visiting Ames and stopped in to donate a scrapbook of General Filter Company memorabilia that was presented to his father, Joseph Lawlor, by G.F. employees at Christmas-time in 1957. Dennis Wendell enjoys taking a look. Joe Lawlor also served as Ames Mayor from 1954 to 1957.

### Hundred-year Old Records

Bob Deppe, Ames, donated a hundred-year old record book of grain shipments from B.A. Lockwood Grain Company, 1912-1932. Bob, a former owner of the Froning & Deppe Elevator, has donated a number of items from the business that was south of Main Street until 1979.

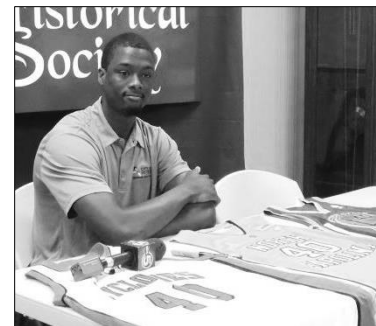


### ISU Students Join Staff

The Society is able to participate in Iowa State's Work-Study student employment program that pays 75% of an employee's wage as a form of financial aid. Beth Jones, right, worked for 6 hours/week doing an outstanding job keeping our facilities clean and tidy. Shannon Holmes worked 20 hours/week throughout the busy summer as executive assistant. In October, Matthew Hefti joined the staff at 10 hours/week to assist with administrative tasks. He will also host Saturday open hours. We are fortunate to be able to utilize the talents of these motivated young people!



### Barnes Donates



During a short visit to his hometown in July, former Ames High School basketball star, Harrison Barnes signed and donated three jerseys to the Society's collection that chart his rising career in the sport:

one each from Ames High, UNC and the Golden State Warriors, as well as a pair of basketball shoes worn in an NBA game. Barnes has won recognition for his athletics talents as well as his congenial personality.

## Upcoming Events

### Through Nov. 30: FESTIVAL OF TREES

During the Festival, stop in to see the Society's tree, *Silver Sesquicentennial Season*, on display at the Octagon Center for the Arts, 427 Douglas. Open hours are M-F 10am-5pm, Sa-Su 1-5pm, closed 11/27-28.



### Sat. Dec. 6: OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

Join us 12 to 3pm for an old fashioned Christmas: popcorn garland stringing, kids' Christmas crafts, hot cider, holiday goodies and a visit from Santa!

### Sat. March 7, SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

10am at the Library Auditorium, 515 Douglas. Program: "How the Trains Made Ames" by Kathy Svec

### 2015 LECTURE SERIES (note Tues-Thur schedule)

**Thur. March 26:** Profile of George Judisch, long-time Main Street druggist and Iowa State Veterinary School professor of pharmacy, by Shannon Bardole.

**Tue. April 28:** An overview of the effects of the Great Depression in Iowa, by Lisa Ossian, DMACC.

**Thur. May 28:** The 1940s at Iowa State – the war years and the long term impact they have had on ISU and Ames, by Douglas Biggs.

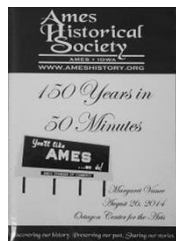
**Tue., June 30:** Noteworthy former Ames residents and Iowa State alumni, by Carole Gieseke and Jim Heemstra, ISU Alumni Association.

## Gallery Talks a Big Success

The Gallery talks organized to accompany the Sesquicentennial exhibit were very successful – the six events attracted 788 people (avg. 131)!

Special thanks go to the committee: Ardy Ulrichson, Keith Bystrom, Nancy Hemphill and Tibi Chelsea as well as Society staff members Alex Fejfar and Hannah Frederick, and the speakers: Margaret Vance, Jeff Benson, Charles Kniker, Kathy Svec, Steve Karsjen, Sharon Wirth, Pete Englin and Ted Kooser.

A DVD of "150 Years in 50 Minutes" the talk by Margaret Vance is available now for \$15. Soon to be ready will be DVDs of the Ames Chautauqua, Ted Kooser and Manhattan Project talks.



## Still Going for 150! ..a Gift Idea

Active work to recruit 150 new members during the Sesquicentennial year goes on – new members to date number **98!** If you are considering an end-of year donation, why not give it in the form of multiple gift memberships? A first-year membership is just \$15. Simply mail or email names and addresses with your check or credit card number to the Society and our staff will send gift certificates to your recipients.

## Kiwanis Spruce Up Hoggatt



After the repair of interior cracks resulting from the recent move of Hoggatt School, Ames Town & Country Kiwanis members painted the ceiling and walls. Shown are (L to R) Jack Winkler, Paul Bracklesburg, Dan Franklin and Don Erickson. Also assisting with the job was Stephanie Clark.

## Shelving Bonus!

When the Ames Public Library moved back downtown from its temporary location in September, it did not take its old shelving, as new equipment was purchased for the renovation. The Society was the happy recipient of 50 units of this sturdy shelving for use in our collection storage area (\$5,000+ value)! This was an amazing bonus for us and for Ames citizens, as it will facilitate the organization of artifacts for easy retrieval. Installation will take several months.

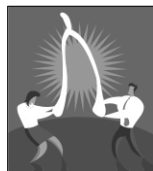
## Passing of a History Authority

Residents in many parts of the state honored Iowa historian and former Iowa State faculty member, **Dorothy Schwieder**, at her passing on August 12. Her near-fifty year academic career saw her become an authority in the field of Iowa history. Dorothy was an accomplished teacher with a long record of public service. She presented the authoritative talk on Jack Trice in our 2011 Lecture Series.

### Wish List Follow-up

#### Profuse thanks go to:

- David Smith for donating to our artifact acquisition fund in July!



#### Still on the Wish List are:

- Two digital cameras (16 pixels or higher)
- Three Windows 7 computers
- 10x10' pop-up tent
- Donations to acquisitions fund to purchase Ames-related artifacts
- Compact-VHS to VHS converter
- Funding for a regular student internship position
- Subscription to newspaperarchive.com

Contact us at 515-232-2148 or [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org) if you can help!

### Holiday Closings

The History Center will be closed for Thanksgiving on Nov. 26-27 and for Christmas from Dec. 24-26.

### Appealing to you!

As 2014 draws to a close, we hope you will consider an end-of-year donation. A letter will soon arrive with this annual request. These dollars have enabled us to take big steps in serving YOU and all of the Ames community. **What a year 2014 has been!**

- We celebrated Ames' 150<sup>th</sup> birthday with two large exhibits plus six well-attended gallery talks.
- We held new events: an Ice Cream Social, a Members After Hours reception, an Iowa Museum Week open house and hands-on preservation classes.
- We extended our community and online presence with 80 presentations, over 500 Facebook likes, new Saturday hours and over 1500 visitors to the Ames History Center.
- We facilitated the restoration of an important piece of Ames history: the large portrait of Ames' founder, John Insley Blair.

2015 promises to be exciting, with the celebration of our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, our 10<sup>th</sup> annual spring lecture series, the continuation of many of our special events, and fresh, interesting exhibits at the History Center.

**We thank** our members, donors, business sponsors, volunteers and all those who have given their time, stories and enthusiasm. **You have made so much possible!**



### Brick Piers Brochure

On Fifth Street in downtown Ames are a series of decorative brick piers. Each one features two clay commemorative tiles that feature people and places in Ames history. A new brochure that gives a self-guided tour is available in the Museum Shop for \$1. The brochure was funded with a generous donation from Janet Klaas, Ames.

Walking tour brochures for the Old Town Neighborhood and Main Street are also available in our Shop.

### FTB Award Goes to Baer

The Society's Farwell T. Brown Award was given this year to Peggy Baer. Named for the Society's founder, it is given annually for exceptional service to the Society.



In 1994 the Society put out a call. We were looking for individuals interested in developing a true historical museum for the city of Ames. Peggy came to the second meeting and expressed her concern and surprise that Ames did not already have a museum. She became a member of the museum development committee and in 1997, accepted a position on the Board – serving for the next 15 years.

To her role on the Board, Peggy brought an advanced degree in Public Administration and years of experience as head of the Rail Division at the DOT. We came to highly value her common sense, her skill at organizing, and her understanding of the step by step process for taking the germ of a big idea from start to completion.

As we began moving from an all-volunteer organization to one with paid staff, she led the way with formal job descriptions and pushed for creation of a strategic plan to map the future. When we began our first fundraising to purchase our building, Peggy served on the committee. As a grant-writer, she won many dollars for special projects. She also co-curated the extensive exhibit two years ago about the impact of trains on the development of Ames. Her commitment, hard work and vision in her role as a Board member demonstrated a high quality of achievement in serving both the organization and the community.

## History Detective IDs Picture

by Alex Fejfar, Society Projects Coordinator



In 2013, volunteer Hank Zaletel brought a postcard to the History Center showing a large crowd gathering at the corner of Onondaga (Main) and Douglas Avenue. In the center of the crowd was a man with a mustache turned toward the camera (circle), standing up in a carriage being pulled by two white horses.

After looking at the photo, it was unclear who or what was being celebrated. The image was also in the Farwell Brown Photo Archive and was from Farwell's mother's scrapbook but Farwell was not able to identify it either.

While searching eBay for Ames-related items, I stumbled upon a nearly identical photo to ours, except the man standing up was turned away from the camera. This photo, however, was identified as Theodore Roosevelt's Vice President, Charles Fairbanks. Finally, we had a name to the face, but still no date.

Using the postmark date of May 1907 as a starting point I searched a website called Newspaperarchive.com that allows users to search newspapers that have been digitized. I found papers all over the state talking about Charles Fairbanks' tour through Iowa. Finally a paper from Waterloo mentioned Fairbanks' next stop was in Ames on Saturday, April 27, 1907.

The account below was written in newspaper articles in the Ames Times and Ames Intelligencer after his visit.

"At 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 27, 1907, Theodore Roosevelt's Vice President, Charles Fairbanks arrived on the No. 3 train, the Overland Limited at the Chicago & Northwestern depot and was greeted by a committee from the Ames Commercial Club, the city council, and the college.

A procession lead by the Ames band and two dozen carriages followed down Onondaga Street to Douglas Avenue. Riding with Fairbank's in his carriage were

Mayor Parley Sheldon, President Albert Storms and Captain Greeley and driving, City Marshal Willey in full uniform.

The blowing of the whistle at the light plant and the ringing of the church bells announced his arrival and the streets were packed. Parley Sheldon introduced the distinguished speakers and referring to the fact the he and the vice president were Buckeyes, both being born in Ohio. Fairbanks spoke for five minutes from his open buggy on Onondaga. He mentioned he was very pleased with the white horses attached to his carriage.

Photographer Hickey waited patiently from a window on the shady, south side of Onondaga. The vice president turned toward his rear to discover the large crowd gathering. At that moment Hickey pushed the button and with "I've got him!" came nearly falling out of the window.

Fairbanks next proceeded to the south gate of Iowa State College and was greeted by General Rush Lincoln and a parade through campus. The ceremonies took place in central campus where a stage was erected and a crowd of 3000 students and Ames residents gathered. He said that he had never seen a college campus so large and so beautiful, and regarded it as an ideal location. President Storms presented Fairbanks with an I.S.C. pennant hoping he would hang it in his library or that he would move it into the White House, which caused the vice president to blush.

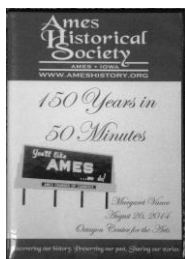
He was then driven to the Northwestern lunch room where he ate and waited for his train to Des Moines at one o'clock."

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## Museum Shop



### **NEW BOOK: Defining Ames,**

all the text from the Sesqui exhibit – just \$10!

### **NEW DVD: 150 Years in 50 Minutes:**

An overview of Ames history (gallery talk), \$15

**POSTER:** the Ames 150 papercut design by Linda Emmerson, 16x20", black or maroon, \$15

**NEW:** Onondaga Blend Coffee, specially blended by Burgie's; whole beans or ground, 16oz. – \$13

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**Bring this coupon for 25% off your entire purchase in the Museum Shop!**  
(members only; expires January 31, 2015)

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Open Mon-Fri 1-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm or by appt, 515-232-2148

## More Items From Our Shop

**Books:** Images of America: AMES by Betcher & Biggs; all of Farwell Brown's books on Ames and more...

**DVDs:** the Collegiate Manufacturing story; Ames Tribune – last run of their press

**Sesqui:** water bottles, wood nickels, silver stars, totes

**Magnets:** 150<sup>th</sup> papercut, Defining Ames, Song of Ames

**Fun:** History card games, old-time toys and hankies

**Postcards:** many vintage Ames views

**Ames walking tour guides**

## Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label for information about your membership. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, allowing us to continue to be a valued community resource. We thank you!

<b>Introductory - 1st year</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Basic</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Friend</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>\$100</b>		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010**